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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/30/08

SPONSOR Garcia, MH LAST UPDATED _____ HB 442

SHORT TITLE Dona Ana Mobile Dental Clinic SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$330.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to: HJM 12 and HB 419

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 442 would appropriate \$330 thousand from the general fund to the Department of Health (DOH) in Fiscal Year 2009 to operate a mobile dental clinic that will provide dental care to uninsured and underinsured low-income children in Dona Ana County. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of FY 2009 shall revert to the General Fund.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes the funding in HB 442 was not included in DOH's Executive Budget. HB 442 would allocate \$330,000 to operate a mobile dental health clinic in Dona Ana County. However, factoring in the first year cost of the vehicle this amount may be insufficient. The Mobile Health Clinics Network estimates that, to outfit and operate a basic two-chair mobile dental clinic, the cost would be in excess of \$500,000. This includes first-time expenses for construction, staffing and operational expenses. In subsequent years, the annual cost to operate and maintain the mobile dental health clinic would be a minimum of \$300,000.

Laws 2007, Chapter 42, Section 65 contains \$56,000 in General Fund capital appropriations to the Department of Health to "purchase and equip a vehicle for a mobile dental clinic in Dona

Ana County.” To date, nothing has been done with these funds because the cost significantly exceeds \$56,000. The capital funding expires on June 30, 2011.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH notes that while oral health disease may be the most preventable health condition affecting the U.S. population, the oral health of minority populations and the underserved remains poor. (Centers for Disease Control NHANES IV Report) Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease, being five times more common than asthma. Annually, 56 million school hours are lost as a result of dental disease among children. The 2000 New Mexico Children’s Oral Health Surveillance Survey (NMOHSS) Report has identified that 65% of New Mexico children have experienced tooth decay and 37% have untreated tooth decay.

A serious shortage of dental providers exists throughout the state. Most of the counties, either in specific populations or the entire county, have been designated as dental health professional shortage areas. These include the southern counties of Lea, Eddy, Otero, portions of Dona Ana, Luna, Hidalgo, and low-income populations of Grant and Sierra.

The intent of HB 442 is to establish a mobile dental health clinic to provide services to children in Dona Ana County who do not have dental insurance, are low-income, at high risk for dental disease and may not have the ability to visit a traditional dental office. The bill would be strengthened by clarifying whether funds could be used to purchase, as well as operate, a mobile unit.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes that should HB 442 be enacted, additional employees would be required to staff the mobile dental clinic, including one FTE dentist, one FTE dental hygienist, one FTE dental assistant and one FTE driver. Other expenditures include vehicle maintenance and storage, dental supplies, administrative coordination of scheduling, and record keeping.

RELATIONSHIP

HB 442 relates to HJM 12, which would request the New Mexico Health Policy Commission and the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center to study the establishment of a Dental School in New Mexico.

HB 442 also relates to HB 419, which would appropriate \$100,000 from the General Fund to DOH in Fiscal Year 2009 to contract with a nonprofit company to provide dental services to underserved children statewide who have little access to dental health professionals and who are at high risk for dental disease.

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